CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 23 MARCH 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE CONFERENCE ADDRESSED TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE IN LONDON ON 15 MARCH 1995 REGARDING THE UNITED KINGDOM'S EXPORT MORATORIUM ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES

I attach a press statement issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London on 15 March 1995, regarding the United Kingdom's Export Moratorium on Anti-Personnel Landmines.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the statement to be circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): M.C.S. Weston
Ambassador

EXPORT MORATORIUM ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES

Mr. David Davis, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, announced today in the House of Commons that Britain was, with immediate effect, extending the scope of its export moratorium on anti-personnel landmines. The moratorium will now comprise a total ban on the export of non-self-destructing on non-detectable anti-personnel landmines, plus a ban on the export of all types of anti-personnel landmines to countries which have not ratified the United Nations Weaponry Convention.

Today's announcement extends the scope of the moratorium, covering the export of anti-personnel landmines not fitted with a self-destructing mechanism announced on 27 July 1994. The extension has become possible because of Britain's ratification of the 1981 United Nations Weaponry Convention on 13 February. The extended moratorium will be of indefinite duration.

The extension underlines the Government's desire to put an end to trade in non-self-destructing and non-detectable anti-personnel landmines, which are the most dangerous to civilians. It also reflects the Government's support for the principle that only responsible countries should be able to acquire any anti-personnel landmines.

The Government hopes that its decision will set a positive example, which will encourage more countries to ratify the United Nations Weaponry Convention and abide by its provisions.